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S/22155
28 January 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TUNISIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the speech of H.E. Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Tunisian Republic, delivered on 26 January 1991.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed GHEZAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

READEX
FICHE

Annex

[Original: Arabic and French]

Speech delivered by the President of the Tunisian Republic
on 26 January 1991

The destruction and devastation which our brother Iraq is enduring are on the verge of becoming intolerable. Whatever my attitude may be as regards the heart of the problem - an attitude which, moreover, I clearly expressed on 11 August 1990 - I cannot, in any way, accept the turn of events. Actually, Iraq, in all its elements, has become threatened in its very existence.

I need hardly recall that, in my speech of 11 August, I affirmed my opposition to force being used by any party whatsoever to solve the problems. I also expressed the conviction, which is always my conviction, that every problem, however complex it may be, can be solved by peaceful means.

It was my conviction that wisdom, if lacking in one of the parties, cannot be be lacking in the community of nations; that the problems of the region, although separated by their origin and their immediate causes, are closely linked by geography and their underlying reasons; and that genuine and lasting solutions are necessarily the fair and comprehensive solutions, even if they require a calendar to be established.

I have therefore spared no effort to avoid what is irreparable. That is why I asked Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, stirred the international conscience and called upon the Security Council to announce the holding, this year, of the International Peace Conference. Iraq is not opposed thereto. This initiative, as any other, ought to have been sufficiently considered and ought to have benefited from the time required for it to be studied in greater depth.

While deploring the obstinacy of certain elements to let the chances for peace go by, I consider it my duty today, faced with the work of Iraq's destruction, to express my profound reprobation of the disastrous developments that conflict with the requirements of peace, human values and the principles on which the United Nations and the Security Council, reputed to be in the service of peace and security, were founded.

I believe that wishing to punish the Iraqi people is a political mistake, an error of judgement. The countries allied against Iraq have hastily applied the resolutions of the Security Council before even exhausting all the peaceful measures.

The date of 15 January, set by the Security Council as opening the way to a possible resort to force in order to induce Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, has become the deadline.

The Security Council resolutions concerned the liberation of Kuwait and not the destruction of Iraq. That clearly shows that the battlefield - if battle it had to be - was not to extend beyond the boundaries of Kuwait. Most of the allied

forces are in the process of unloading a deluge of fire and the sword on the whole territory of Iraq, on Basra, on Baghdad and on Mosul, thus targeting on the entire civil infrastructure and the entire material and human potential.

Through the non-stop destruction, of which our brother Iraq has been the victim since the dawn of 17 January, the true designs for which the Security Council resolutions were taken advantage of are becoming clear, just as in the same way it has been established since 2 August that international legality was not applied to all in accordance with the same standards and the same criteria.

More than 20 States have formed a coalition to strike Iraq. Is that international legality? That legality which no one has hastened to enforce, except when economic, political and strategic interests depend thereon.

The true aims, which have now become clear, consist in preventing the renaissance of the Arab nation, in prohibiting it from acquiring strength and invulnerability, from making progress and from mastering science and technology so that it will for ever remain condemned to dependence, having no place in this allegedly new world order.

It is distressing how these parties boast about unloading tens of thousands of bombs each day, using the most sophisticated engines of death on the Iraqi people, while the world echoes the cries of indignation when Israel finds itself the target of a resistance operation. But complete silence prevails when a people's potentials are wiped out and when this people is attacked even in its places of worship.

When we witness the ordeal endured by the Iraqi people and, through them, by each and every Arab citizen, we have a duty to ask ourselves: what about human rights and humanitarian law, what about the integrity of the human person and human dignity?

When we see the deceptions perpetrated by the mass media, the withholding and manipulation of information, we have a right to ask ourselves: what about the freedom and credibility of the press, what about these noble values, are they subject to limitations, do they apply to some and not to others, is this the new world order?

Citizens,

While there may be some justification for the way in which some countries use these values to serve their own interests, it is both surprising and repugnant to see Arabs and Muslims remain silent, each according to his own logic and for his own purposes, without a thought for the imperatives of the survival and dignity of the Arab nation as a whole.

Peoples always survive ordeals. We need look no further than the combatant Palestinian people, now stronger than ever despite the deportations, persecutions and genocide attempts that it has endured for half a century.

I appeal to all Arab and Muslim leaders, to all those the world over who love peace and believe in the right of peoples to peace and security, to call on the Security Council to end the war and apply the principles of international law without discrimination or restriction by convening the International Peace Conference in the course of this year with a view to ending the Gulf crisis and solving all the problems of the Middle East and, first and foremost, the problem of the struggling Palestinian people.

The Palestinian cause will remain a permanent source of instability for the entire region until a just and lasting solution is found which guarantees the right of the Palestinians to establish a state on their national soil.

I pledge our solidarity with the fraternal people of Iraq in their harsh ordeal. I am following developments in the situation constantly and am working tirelessly with our brothers in the Arab Maghreb Union, and with all peace- and justice-loving forces, to end this devastating war as soon as possible. In extending my gratitude and high regard to all Tunisians for the maturity and sense of civic duty they have shown in expressing their solidarity with the Iraqi people, I call on them to help me devote all my efforts to finding a solution to this problem, while exercising the utmost vigilance, acting calmly and responsibly, and, in keeping with the centuries-old tradition of hospitality for which we are famous, looking out for the safety and the interests of the foreign residents among us and of all those who are here to contribute to our country's development.

In view of our country's development situation and the adverse effects that this crisis is going to have, I again call on all Tunisians to commit themselves seriously to the task at hand and to redouble their efforts, now that it has become clear to all that the only path to salvation and dignity is self-reliance and that invulnerability and independence can be ensured only by our own efforts.

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LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my two letters of 21 January (S/22115 and S/22117), I have the honour to communicate to you a further report on operations in the Gulf pursuant to operative paragraph 2 of resolution 678 (1990).

Our overall aim throughout has been, in the words of the British Chief of Defence Staff, "to attack the Iraqi war machine so that it no longer casts its dark shadow over Kuwait and allows us to liberate Kuwait in accordance with the wishes of the United Nations". This has required detailed planning and meticulous execution, bearing in mind that Iraq has one of the largest armies in the world. The military objectives during the second week of operations have been to break down the intricate command network of the Iraqi armed forces, to disrupt and degrade their air defence system and thereby to gain air superiority. The attack has also concentrated on Iraq's unconventional weapons capabilities and against a whole spectrum of Iraqi military infrastructure targets which help sustain the occupation of Kuwait.

The results have been as follows. The SCUD threat has been reduced by attacks on Iraqi fixed and mobile launchers. Main Iraqi military airfields have been damaged and their capacity has been reduced. The Iraqi airforce has been so severely attacked that it has been unable to operate against allied air operations. Iraqi military command and control has been severely damaged and increasingly Iraq has moved to alternative, less effective means of communication. Iraq's ability to sustain a war has been steadily reduced. Oil refining capacity, which has been specifically targetted with the objective of reducing Iraq's military sustainability, has been reduced by 50 per cent. Operations continue against Iraq's chemical and biological warfare installations, production and storage capability. There has been disruption and harassment of Iraq's land army in the theatre of operations particularly orientated towards her command and control and logistical assets. The entire campaign has been conducted against military infrastructure with the express directions to avoid causing civilian casualties as far as possible, and with specific briefing to avoid sites of cultural and historic significance.

As the Secretary of State for Defence said in the House of Commons on 20 January, we have made the strongest representations again to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the representatives of which have been here seeking access to Iraqis who have been detained to ensure that they are receiving proper treatment. They were naturally granted access and we gave them every opportunity, to which they are entitled, to visit Iraqis to see whether they are receiving proper treatment. We have insisted that similar facilities must be available to representatives of the International Red Cross in Baghdad.

The ICRC team confirmed at the end of their visit that the United Kingdom in the UK was complying with the Geneva Conventions as regards Prisoners of War and civilian detainees.

There was also an ICRC visit to facilities for prisoners of war in Riyadh. They were able to see there the provision made for the sick and wounded, and the arrangements to discharge our obligations under the Geneva Conventions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) D. H. A. HANNAY

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LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to call a formal meeting of the Security Council as soon as possible to review the situation in the Gulf.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba believes that the Council must assume its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security; in our view, the only legitimate way to do this is to hold a formal debate in the Security Council so that the Council can take appropriate steps to end the hostilities and bring the conflict now gripping this important part of the world towards a diplomatic and peaceful solution.

The request made to you by a number of delegations, including a member of the Security Council, to this end, a request in which my delegation joins, makes it necessary to implement the relevant regulatory measures immediately, particularly article 2 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, which stipulates that "The President shall call a meeting of the Security Council at the request of any member of the Security Council."

Under this rule, the Security Council is compelled to take action when requested to do so by a member State. It is also required to act under rule 3 of its provisional rules of procedure, which authorizes any State Member of the United Nations to request the Security Council to call a meeting in order to consider "a dispute or situation ... under Article 35" of the Charter.

In other words, the requests made by the countries of the Arab Maghreb, joined by the Sudan, Jordan and Yemen and now by Cuba, are covered by rules of the Council's provisional rules of procedure and by articles of the Charter, the clarity and relevance of which are beyond question.

In view of the foregoing, I should be grateful, Sir, if you would immediately call a formal meeting of the Security Council for the purposes set out in this letter.

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28 January 1991
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NOTE VERBALE DATED 28 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 28 January 1991 by the spokesman for the Iraqi armed forces concerning the attack launched by aircraft of the United States-NATO-Zionist coalition against Iraqi oil installations in the province of Kuwait.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations would be grateful if the text of this note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Statement issued on 28 January 1991 by the spokesman for the Iraqi armed forces concerning the attack launched by aircraft of the United States-NATO-Zionist coalition against Iraqi oil installations in the province of Kuwait

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate,

On the evening of 27 January 1991, at 2115 hours, aircraft of the United States-NATO-Zionist coalition launched an attack against oil installations in the province of Kuwait with a view to destroying oil distribution facilities. Enemy aircraft bombed oil pipelines and intake and regulatory valves at the port of Nida, starting a fire and causing oil to spill into the waters of the Arabian Gulf.

The United States of America and its allies are once again manifesting their insatiable desire to damage and annihilate Arab resources to prevent our people and our nation from enjoying them.

Despite our repeated warnings to the United States and its allies regarding the need to protect the environment of the region and to prevent it from becoming polluted, and although we mentioned the serious dangers arising from their acts, America and its allies persist in following the path of evil, scorning our national heritage and the quality of the environment in this part of the world, placing their limited interests, which lie in the damage they do to Iraq, above any humanitarian considerations. We appeal to world public opinion and to international organizations, particularly those working to preserve the environment, to raise their voices and take action in response to this crime.

Our forces, using all the technological tools at their disposal, are doing everything they can to put out these fires, stop the oil spills and mitigate the effects of the crime perpetrated by the United States.

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LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SURINAME TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the statement by the Government of the Republic of Suriname on the situation in the Gulf.

I should be grateful if this statement could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kriesnadath NANDOE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement dated 25 January by the Government of the Republic of Suriname

The outbreak and continuation of war in the Gulf Region is of great concern for the Government of the Republic of Suriname.

Suriname has from the outset expressed its rejection of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as an act that goes contrary to the fundamental principles of international law and the United Nations Charter. We once again appeal to the Government of Iraq to accept the relevant United Nations resolutions and commence its withdrawal from Kuwait.

The Government of Suriname deeply regrets the failure of sustained peace efforts to prevent the outbreak of war and the consequent human suffering and loss of lives and appeals to all parties concerned to undertake all steps necessary to still resolve the conflict by diplomatic means.

The Surinamese Government expresses its hope that a speedy diplomatic solution to this conflict will be found and that peace will be promptly restored in the Persian Gulf.

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Since Friday the 18th of January 1991, Israel has been the target of a series of destructive and unprovoked attacks:

On 18 January at 2.00 a.m., a salvo of Iraqi missiles was launched into Israel leading to the injury of 15 civilians and causing considerable property damage.

On 19 January at 7.30 a.m., Iraq again launched a missile attack against Israel, injuring 10 civilians and causing considerable property damage.

On 22 January at 8.37 p.m., missiles were fired by Iraq, which resulted in the death of 3 civilians and the injury of 95 others in the Tel-Aviv area.

On 23 January shortly after 10.00 p.m, a missile was lunched by Iraq toward the northern region of Israel. Although there were no injuries, property damage was sustained.

On 25 January at approximately 6.05 p.m., Iraq fired 7 missiles at the northern and central regions of Israel causing 1 fatality and 69 injuries.

On 26 January at 10.03 p.m., missiles were fired by Iraq towards northern and central Israel. No injuries were sustained.

Speaking to the Union of Arab Workers on 18 April 1990, Saddam Hussein said:

"... Our planes and missiles will reach Israel ... Indeed we have positioned our missile launchers facing west, not east."

(Iraqi News Agency)

On the eve of his invasion of Kuwait, Saddam Hussein threatened to destroy Israel, fully aware that Israel has no aggressive intentions against Iraq or any other Arab state. Later, on January 9th, during a press conference, Iraq's Foreign Minister went one step further. In response to the question: "If the war starts in the Middle East, in the Gulf, will you attack Israel?" - Tariq Aziz replied, "Yes, absolutely yes."

Saddam Hussein, who has used chemical weapons in his war with Iran, as well as having murdered thousands of his own citizens in this same horrible fashion, now threatens to use chemical weapons against Israel.

In a military ceremony on 1 April 1990, Saddam Hussein threatened to destroy Israel:

> "In the name of Allah, we shall light a fire that will engulf half of Israel should it take steps against Iraq ... we possess binary chemical weapons."
> (Iraqi Press Agency, April 2nd)

Iraqis actions have already caused loss of life, scores of injuries and damage to homes and property. These repeated use of force, in clear breach of the prohibition of threat and use of force in Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations.

The attacks were against civilians. The method of terror employed by Iraq against Israel, namely, intentional and unprovoked bombings is a flagrant breach of the norms of international law applicable between states.

Israel calls on all the members of the international community to condemn these deliberate attacks by Iraq on Israel's population and the resulting loss of life and suffering involved, and demands that such attacks cease immediately. Israel calls for appropriate and full reparations for Iraq's attacks.

Under these circumstances Israel reserves its right to call for a meeting of the Security Council as well as reserving its right to act in self-defense.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yoram ARIDOR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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Ambassador
Permanent Representative